

Bio: Donna Brune

I have drawn and painted since childhood, but began formal art studies as a young adult. I worked primarily in oil and pastels but later turned to watercolor for health reasons. However, I chose a career in horticulture, and the artistic skills were helpful in that career for both floral and landscape design. During this time it was difficult to make time to paint.

Now that the horticulture business has been retired I have returned to painting. Even though I had been doing design work, it wasn't that easy to just pick up where I left off with painting. So I began taking workshops. Artists Tom Lynch and Sterling Edwards were most helpful in getting me back to basics in watercolor. I also work in acrylic and other watermedia, as well as collage.

I also consider myself most fortunate to have attended workshops with Gerald Brommer and Barbara Nechis. Back in the '80's these innovative artists were my heroes and were very influential in the development of my creative style. Barbara Nechis's work in particular, offered a path to freedom from traditional watercolor painting. Gerald Brommer is a master at combining watercolor and collage, and I often use this technique to create texture in landscapes.

I have always been fascinated by the landscape around me, wherever I am. I love working in watercolor and other water media on various surfaces because it gives me freedom and spontaneity to create how I feel about my subject. When I was younger I painted in a more realistic style and sometimes I still do, but as I grow older I often see the landscape in a more impressionistic way, and at other times I work in a more intuitive manner. Now I am more drawn by the colors and shapes I see than the scene itself.

I have been fortunate to be a resident of Rappahannock County for over 32 years. I was a charter member of Middle Street Gallery. My work has been juried into several shows. Some have won awards. And, my paintings often appear in regional galleries. I am a member of several regional art associations including the Virginia Watercolor Society.